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NPS Students Participate in Int'l Negotiation Exercise at MIIS

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U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

NPS Students Participate in Int'l Negotiation Exercise at MIIS

By MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

Students from NPS, the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS) at Monterey, California State University Monterey Bay, Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley conduct a negotiation during the International Strategic Crisis Negotiation Exercise (ISCNE) on the MIIS campus, Feb. 26-28.

The three-day ISCNE was created 12 years ago by the U.S. Army War College, and is hosted multiple times annually at locations across the country with the intent to teach students the fine art of crisis negotiation.

"We want to bring the best political minds, and match them up with the best military minds ... If we can start working together now, then later when many of you are working for the State [Department] or other agencies, you will be more inclined to talk to your military partners about flexible deterrent options," explained Army Col. Dave Price, director for senior leader education at the U.S. Army War College.

All students selected for ISCNE are emerging national security professionals at the graduate school and young professional level. Students are divided into delegations, and in this exercise, given the task of resolving a simulated conflict between India and Pakistan over the contested Jammu-Kashmir region.

"This exercise gives these students and soon-to-be future diplomats an opportunity to crisis negotiate at the strategic level," said U.S. Army Lt. Col Chris Wendland, an Army War College Fellow at MIIS. "It's about honing diplomatic and negotiation skills within a real-world frozen conflict."

After three days of back and forth negotiations, the student groups were

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unable to determine a final, mutually-agreeable resolution; however, the value of effort was not lost.

"There have been many obstacles, some we expected, and other things we had to work through," said Army Maj. Josh Russo, a student in NPS' Department of Defense Analysis. "It has been interesting to see how each delegation has worked toward a solution, with much progress coming when many countries sit down at the negotiation table."

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